Timing of Mail Ballot Returns*

"The [county] auditor shall send each voter a ballot at least eighteen days before a primary, general election, or special election."   (RCW 29A.48.010(3))

25% of mailed ballots are voted and returned to county auditors between the day they are mailed out and the end of the first <u>full</u> week after they are mailed out.

26% are received during the second full week after they are mailed out.

49% are received during the week of the primary or election:

- 10% are received the day before election day/the day of the primary.

- 18% are received on election day/the day of the primary.

- 21% are received in the three days after election day/the day of the primary.

*Source: aggregation of the numbers of ballots returned daily from selected county auditors' websites for the 2006 general election (Pierce and Spokane Counties), the 2007 primary (Pierce, Spokane, Clark, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties), and the 2007 general election (Pierce, Spokane, Clark, and Kittitas Counties). (This may include not only the numbers of ballots delivered to county auditors by the U.S. Postal Service, but also the numbers of ballots received by county election officials at ballot drop-off sites.)